

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 93

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor former University of Tennessee and current Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning on the Colts' Super Bowl XXXXI victory, and on his receipt of the game's Most Valuable Player award.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are extremely proud to honor one of this State's greatest ambassadors for his outstanding accomplishments both on and off the football field; and

WHEREAS, Peyton Manning attained pro football immortality on February 4, 2007 when his Indianapolis Colts defeated the Chicago Bears 29-17, in Super Bowl XXXXI, and he earned the game's Most Valuable Player award in the process; and

WHEREAS, respected by players, coaches and fans throughout the National Football League for his commitment to the game, Peyton first established himself as a player of great prominence on the collegiate level at the University of Tennessee where, on the hallowed turf of Shields-Watkins Field at Neyland Stadium, he set countless records as a member of the Vols; and

WHEREAS, from his first snap as a Tennessee Volunteer against UCLA in 1994, Peyton endeared himself to Tennessee fans everywhere for his team and individual accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Peyton Manning's mastery of the gridiron as a four-year starter for the Vols enabled him to set thirty-three school records, eight Southeastern Conference records, and two National Collegiate Athletic Association marks; and

WHEREAS, he completed his distinguished career as a Volunteer with an SEC record 39 wins as a starting quarterback, 863 pass completions, 11,201 passing yards, and an astounding pass completion percentage of 62.49%; and

WHEREAS, living up to his reputation as a prolific and deadly accurate passer, Peyton threw for over 300 yards in 18 games, set NCAA records for the lowest career interception percentage, lowest single-season interception percentage, ranked third in NCAA history in passing yards and total offense, fifth in pass completions, fourth in touchdowns thrown, and posted a 26-4 record as a starter in SEC games; and

WHEREAS, though Peyton is a player truly committed to the concept of team play rather than individual awards, it is fitting that his career statistics distinguish him as the most prolific passer in Tennessee football history; and

WHEREAS, Peyton was the recipient of the coveted 1997 Davey O'Brien Award and the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award as the National Collegiate Athletic Association's top quarterback; he also won the *Football News*' Offensive Player of the Year Award and the prestigious Maxwell Award as college football's premier player, and was named first team All-American by the Associated Press; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Colts, Peyton Manning has tirelessly committed himself to improving the lives of others; in 1999 he formed the PeyBack Foundation to promote the future success of disadvantaged youth by supporting programs which provide leadership and growth opportunities for at-risk youth, and to assist foster children, Special Olympics, high school football, community agencies, educators, and Hurricane Katrina victims, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Peyton is the first recipient of the Achievement of Honor Award, the highest award given by the Tennessee General Assembly, and was named the 2005 Walter Payton NFL Man-of-the-Year for his participation in community affairs, the 2002 male recipient of the Henry P. Iba Citizen Athlete Award, which is given annually to America's premier male and female athletes who excelled in their sport and through their actions have helped others, and was the recipient of the 2005 Byron "Whizzer" White Humanitarian Award, the same award won by his father Archie in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Peyton Manning has started every game as a nine-year veteran of the Colts since being selected as the top pick in the 1998 NFL draft; he has completed 64% of his passes

for nearly 40,000 yards and 275 touchdown passes and received two regular season Most Valuable Player awards in the process; and

WHEREAS, With Peyton at the helm, Indianapolis compiled a 12-4 record in winning the AFC South Division this year; the Colts began their run through the playoffs against Kansas City, promptly dispatching of the Chiefs in the wildcard round of the playoffs, 23- 8, a game in which Peyton passed for 268 yards and one touchdown; and

WHEREAS, the Colts next traveled to Baltimore where they defeated the Ravens in a game dominated by defense, 15-6; and

WHEREAS, in the AFC Championship Game, the Colts did battle with their long time nemesis, the New England Patriots, emerging victorious in a thrilling 38-34 contest after rallying back from an 18-point deficit; and

WHEREAS, Peyton threw for 247 yards and a touchdown against the Bears in Super Bowl XXXXI, as the Colts defeated present Chicago and former University of Florida quarterback Rex Grossman and his teammates handily; and

WHEREAS, as he has done so many times throughout his football career, Peyton won the big one, in a big way, his quest for a championship ended with a sterling performance that added a Super Bowl MVP award to his long list of achievements; and

WHEREAS, Peyton Manning is extremely popular with Big Orange and Colts fans, and has always been gracious in giving credit to his teammates and coaches who have contributed immeasurably to the success of both teams during his tenures in Knoxville and Indianapolis respectively; and

WHEREAS, he is most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his devoted and loving wife, Ashley; his proud parents, Archie and Olivia Manning; his brothers, Cooper and Eli; and numerous other relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, it is not often that we are privileged to know a man of such greatness as Peyton Manning, and it is appropriate that he should be recognized by all Tennesseans, who are proud to call him this State's favorite son; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-
HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that the General Assembly hereby honors Peyton Manning on his team, the Indianapolis Colts, winning Super Bowl XXXXI, congratulate him on his receipt of the game's Most Valuable Player award, and extend to him and his family our heartfelt wishes for every continued success in life and in professional football.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we congratulate Indianapolis Colts owner Robert Irsay, Colts players, fans, and everyone affiliated with the franchise on the team's singular success this season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Peyton and Ashley, his parents, and brothers, with this final clause omitted from such copies.